

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph [11] on page 3 with the following paragraph:

[11] For instance, in another piping structure around the compressor according to the prior art, the pipings 152 and 153 (as shown in FIG. 2) connected to the compressor are looped, and then are provided with a separate lumped mass element 140. The gaseous refrigerant of low temperature and pressure introduced from the indoor unit (not shown) enters the outdoor unit through an external piping connected to a service valve 110, and then the gaseous refrigerant of low temperature and pressure introduced in this manner is subjected to removal of its liquid component by means of an accumulator 130, compression at the compressor 150, and conversion into the gaseous refrigerant of high temperature and pressure, and enters the condenser.